

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC)

Technical/Planning and Policy Subcommittee

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 12:00 p.m.

Director's Conference Room

Tucson Water, 3rd Floor

310 W. Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona



Summary Minutes

1. Roll Call/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Subcommittee Chair, Mark Murphy, at 12:01 p.m.
Those present and absent were:

Present:

Mark Murphy	Chairperson-Representative, Mayor
Mitch Basefsky	Representative, City Manager
Chuck Freitas	Representative, City Manager
Brian Wong	Representative, City Manager
Placido dos Santos	Representative, City Manager
Alan Tonelson	Representative, Ward 1
Kelly Lee	Representative, Ward 6

Absent:

None

Tucson Water Staff Present:

Andrew Greenhill	Intergovernmental Affairs Manager
Wally Wilson	Chief Hydrologist
Kris LaFleur	Staff Assistant
Johanna Hernandez	Staff Assistant

Others Present:

Mark Lewis	Representative, Ward 5 (not a member of subcommittee)
Amy Stabler	City of Tucson, Ward 6
Katie Bolger	City of Tucson, Ward 2
Eve Halper	Bureau of Reclamation

2. Announcements – No action taken.

3. Call to Audience – No action taken.

4. Review & Approval of January 28, 2015 Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes – Member Freitas motioned to approve the Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2015. Member Tonelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of 7-0.

5. PAG Presentation on Shallow Groundwater Studies – Claire Zucker presented a PowerPoint presentation on Shallow Groundwater Studies. The report was designed to provide a broad overview of the basin and to direct future research. It is noted that the

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data in the report were grouped in an arbitrary fashion and are most meaningful when forming a regional picture of the basin. The study identified 32 shallow ground water areas, grouped into 10 clusters. Usage of exempt wells and non-exempt wells outside AMA are estimated, as those users aren't required to report to ADWR. Well density and drilling trends for the 10 clusters were reviewed, comparing exempt and non-exempt wells. Santa Cruz pumping is reflected as dramatically higher than other shallow area pumping. Rillito-Tanque Verde, Cienega Creek Region, Tortolita Mountains areas reviewed in depth. Drilling, well density, pumping, and water levels were reviewed for each of the three areas. The report shows general and widespread decline in shallow groundwater areas and a lot of unknown factors surrounding the areas.

Note: Ms. Zucker notes slide 10 contains an error; the slide reflects all wells, not exempt wells only.

The study has resulted in increased regional awareness, additional studies and grants to further research. The results indicate a need for outreach to at risk areas owners as they aren't connected to utilities. Watershed Management Group is working on increasing outreach. Water accounting areas and ADWR enhanced aquifer management are discussed as methods of increasing awareness of the conditions of the basin in these areas. Discussion of the overlap of shallow areas and the Tucson Water service area was held.

The data in this report can be used to inform future decisions regarding drought planning that considers differences in local and regional conditions, restoration and tendencies for private pumpers to increase use in drought. Data could also be used to inform considerations of targeted conservation measures. Other future considerations are outreach to private well owners and small utilities, utilities extending water lines into shallow areas, and consideration of shallow areas and riparian impacts in water resource discussions.

Discussion held on the limits of the data presented and the inability to extrapolate site specific information, tools for motivating/incentivizing conservation in shallow areas, and methods for including these areas of concern in water discussions. Extensive discussion held regarding costs of mitigation and monitoring was discussed as a method for discouraging pumping and development in these areas.

Chuck Freitas departed at 12:45 and returned at 12:50

Audience member Mark Lewis was recognized by Chair Murphy and commented on the consideration of extending service out to shallow areas with emphasis on riparian areas.

6. **Discharges to the Santa Cruz River** – Tucson Water staff member Wally Wilson presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding effluent discharges to the Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz River has multiple areas of input, output and monitoring points. The following factors affect the water in the Santa Cruz: volume and location of WRF discharge, infiltration rate, current direct diversions and storm flow events. The status of input, output and monitoring on the Santa Cruz was reviewed from 2010, 2014, current data and future expectations. The flow length of the river is affected by infiltration, reclaimed demand, WRF discharges, potable demand and future IPR uses. The data presented reflect a steady decrease of WRF discharge to the river. Drastic decreases

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in discharges to the river are identified as changes in recharge policy, changes in water quality, additional recharge basins and most recently the shutdown of Randolph Park.

Extensive discussion was held regarding the minimum amount of water that needs to be discharged to the river to sustain the ecosystem, there is currently no agreed upon number. Additional discussion held on what water would be discharged to the river, and who would fund that water.

Audience member Mark Lewis was recognized by Chair Murphy and commented on the permits for recharge.

7. Future Meetings/Agenda Items – See projected agenda for further information.

Kelly Lee departed at 1:31 p.m.

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Approved 3/25/2015